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FIRST REPORTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF
 THE DONBASS COMBINE IN THE MOSCOW BASIN

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The Donbass combine is being tried out in the 52-meter-long mine face No 10 of Mine No 28 in the Stalinogorskugol' Trust, Moskvougol' Combine. The geological thickness of the seam is 3.6 meters, the thickness of the part being removed, 3.2 meters. The seam contains small pockets of sulfur pyrites. A layer of clay 0.2-0.6 meter thick occurs in the floor of the seam and under the clay sands are found. A layer of sand 4 meters thick lies in the roof of the seam. After the seam has been mined, a block of coal 0.2-0.3 meter thick still remains in the roof.

Coal is conveyed along the mine face by ST3-6 scraper conveyers and along the drifts by ST3-6 scraper conveyers and RTU-30 belt conveyers. The breaking up and loading of the lower block of coal up to 1 meter thick is carried out entirely by the combine. An additional vertical cutting bar and a pneumatic drill are used for the upper block of coal. These are controlled by a worker standing on a special platform which moves along with the combine.

All the coal falls into the ring-shaped loader of the combine and is loaded onto the conveyor. The Donbass combine assures the mechanization of loading of all coal extracted from the mine face.

To prop the mine face in back of the combine and to adapt the machine to Moscow Basin conditions, the following devices were installed:

In back of the combine loader, a protective shield and a special platform were set up. Two persons, a coal breaker and a mine face propper, are stationed on this platform.

The length of the vertical cutting bar cutting coal from the side of the mine face was increased to 2.2 meters.

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Three multipurpose shift brigades were organized to complete all operations connected with the removal of coal from the mine face. These brigades consisted of the operator of the combine and the assistant operator, six mechanics to prop and shape the mine face, and an electrician.

During 21 days of April 1950, 2,603 tons of coal were mined by the combine. The average daily output from the mine face was 124 tons and labor productivity per worker was 3.4 tons. In 24 days of May 1950, the coal output of the combine increased to 4,344 tons with a daily output of 181 tons and a labor productivity per worker of 4.0 tons. During June, these figures rose further to 6,500 tons for total output from the mine face, 216 tons for daily output, and 4.41 tons for daily output per worker.

Other mine faces of Mine No 28 which have to operate under the same geological conditions but which are not provided with a Donbass combine have a daily output of only from 125-135 tons of coal and a daily labor productivity per worker of not more than 3.5 tons.

The absence of blasting in the operations of the combine increased the stability of the roof, decreased the number of cave-ins at the mine face, and improved the quality of the coal mined, since it contained fewer impurities.

The first results of the work of the Donbass combine in Mine No 28 leads to the conclusion that the employment of this combine will solve problems of mechanizing coal removal and coal loading at the majority of mine faces in the Moscow Basin.

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